

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12 NEA-10 AID-20 RSR-01 /154 W

----- 006284

R 081348 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1929

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR MI MZ MOPS

SUBJ: REPORTED CLASH BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND MALAWI FORCES

REF: A. BLANTYRE 675; B. CAPE TOWN 346; C. LOURENCO MARQUES

302

1. MOZAMBIQUE PRESS MAY 6 PUBLISHED REUTERS STORY, DATED MAY 5, CONCERNING MALAWI GOVT DENIAL OF ANY CLASH BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND MALAWIAN FORCES, MUCH OF WHICH PARALLELED REFTEL A. HOWEVER, STORY WENT ON TO SAY THAT "GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES REVEALED THAT THERE WAS, RECENTLY, AN ENCOUNTER IN THE FRONTIER AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL, ZOMBA, BUT THAT IN IT WERE INVOLVED PORTUGUESE FORCES AND FRELIMO TERRORISTS." THE COMMUNIQUE STRESSED THAT OFFICIALLY THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI DOES NOT AUTHORIZE FRELIMO TO OPERATE

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FROM BASES WITHIN ITS TERRITORY. NEVERTHELESS, THERE HAVE BEEN NOTED ATTACKS ON PORTUGUESE INSTALLATIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE, BY FRELIMO GUERRILLAS OPERATING ACROSS THE BADLY DEFINED FRONTIER BETWEEN MALAWI AND PORTUGUESE TERRITORY."

2. COMMENT: WE PASS THIS ON AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST IN LIGHT
OF INSISTENCE OTHER SOURCES INSIDE MALAWI (REFTTEL A) THAT NO
CLASH OF ANY SORT TOOK PLACE, AND CONTRARY REPORTS IN SOUTH
AFRICAN PRESS THAT THERE WAS SUCH ENCOUNTER (REF B). MILITARY
SPOKESMAN HERE PRIVATELY INTERPRETS ABOVE QUOTE AS IMPLIED
ADMISSION BY MALAWI GOVERNMENT SOURCES THAT FRELIMO DOES
OPERATE OUT OF MALAWI TERRITORY.

VAN OSS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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TAGS: PBOR MI MZ MOPS
To: BLANTYRE INFO STATE
CAPE TOWN
DAR ES SALAAM
LISBON
LONDON
LUSAKA
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